

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-11 are pending and stand rejected. In response, Claims 1 and 8 are amended, no claims are cancelled and no claims are added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication 2004/0186713 to Gomas et al. ("Gomas") in view of U.S. Publication 2005/0015255 to Kaye et al. ("Kaye"), further in view of official notice as evidenced by U.S. Publication 2003/0070001 to Belknap et al. ("Belknap"), and further in view of U.S. Publication 2002/0115051 to Sanda ("Sanda"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 8 is based on the combination of Gomas, Kaye, Belknap, and Sanda. Gomas relates to a portable electronic device that includes a user interface that is adapted for operation by a print-disabled individual using a text to speech converter and an audio output. Gomas further describes an electronic distribution system in which a server communicates with a number of remote portable electronic listening units and distributes content obtained by interfacing automatically with a number of content providers to provide, for example, a virtual newsstand for the blind and print-handicapped. (See pg. 1, para. 11.) However, Gomas does not disclose or suggest a system that enables communication with an opposite user having communication characteristics that are registered for a disabled person in response to a request from the terminal unit to establish communication with the terminal of the opposite user, as in Claim 1.

As correctly recognized by the Examiner, Gomas does not specifically disclose a communication characteristic that one registered with respect to disabled persons and non-disabled persons. As a result, the Examiner cites Kaye.

Kaye generally relates to a method for assisting users, such as disabled persons, to use processing equipment including photocopiers and sorting machines. (See Abstract.) Kaye

describes that a call for help is received at a remote service bureau, and based on a user profile and an equipment profile, assistance is provided to the user from the remote service bureau such, based at least partly upon the user profile and the equipment profile. However, Kaye fails to describe a communication that is established where an opposite user terminal unit has communication characteristics that are registered for a disabled person in response to a request from the terminal unit to establish communication with the terminal of the opposite user.

As disclosed by Kaye, the remote service bureau to which the call is communicated does not have communication characteristics that are registered for a disabled person in response to a request from the terminal unit to establish communication with the terminal of the opposite user, as in Claim 1. Hence, no combination of Gomas in view of Kaye can disclose, teach, or suggest an open API communication server unit for registering the communication characteristics of the terminal unit, the server unit registering communication characteristics of an opposite user terminal unit in response to a request from the terminal unit to establish communication with the terminal of the opposite user, wherein the communication characteristics of the opposite user terminal unit are registered for a disabled person, as in Claim 1.

As correctly recognized by the Examiner, Gomas, Kaye, and Belknap do not disclose providing voice/text communication between two users. As a result, the Examiner cites Sanda. Sanda generally relates to variable types of sensory interaction for an online education system. Sanda describes user access for an electronic syllabus where options exist to accommodate various types of visual, auditory, tactile, and cognitive interaction with and participation in online educational courses (see Abstract). However, the Examiner's citing of Sanda fails to rectify the deficiency of the combination of Gomas in view of Kaye, and further in view of Belknap to teach or suggest a server unit that registers communication characteristics of an opposite user terminal in response to a request from the user terminal unit to establish communication with the terminal of the opposite user, wherein the communication characteristics of the opposite user terminal are registered for a disabled person, as in Claim 1.

For each of the above reasons, therefore, Claim 1 and all claims which depend on Claim 1, are patentable over the combination of Gomas in view of Kaye and further in view of Belknap.

as well as the other references of record. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claims 1-7.

Each of Applicants' other independent claims contains limitations similar to those in Claim 1. Therefore, all of Applicants' other independent claims, and all claims which depend on them, are patentable over the cited art, for similar reasons. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claims 8-11.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicant's silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending (1) are in proper form, (2) are neither obvious nor anticipated by the relied upon art of record, and (3) are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

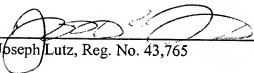
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

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By:


Joseph Lutz, Reg. No. 43,765

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, California 94085-4040
Telephone (310) 207-3800
Facsimile (408) 720-8383

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.


Alexandra Y. Caluen September 24, 2008